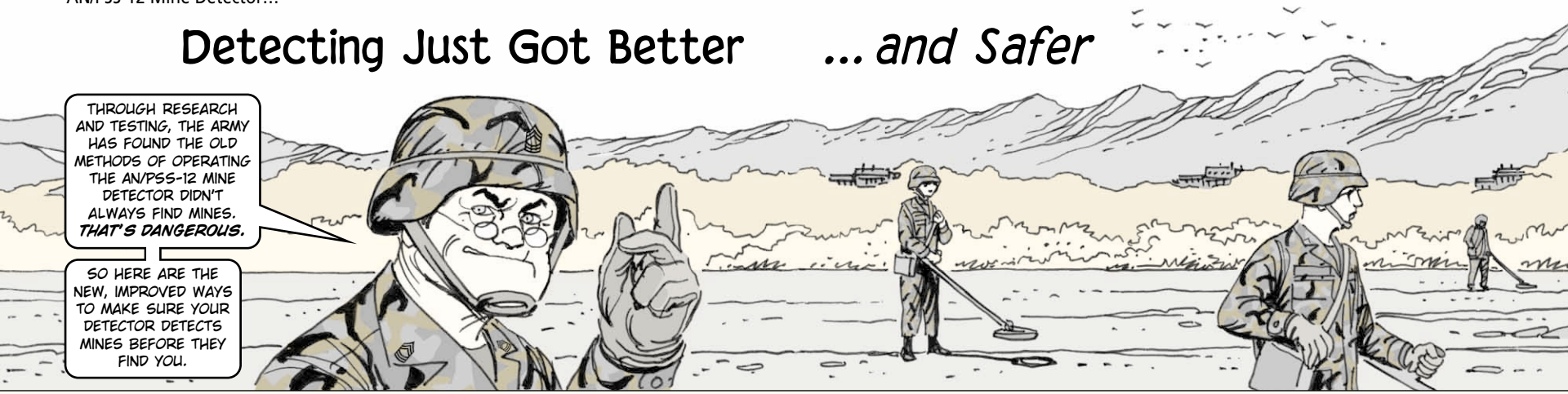
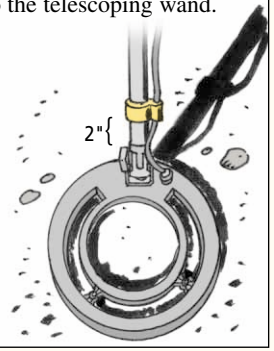
Detecting Just Got Better ...and Safer



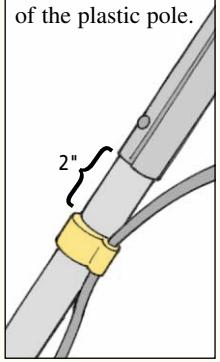
Be More Sensitive

The cable that runs from the search head to the electronics unit can affect the detector's sensitivity if it's not connected correctly. To connect the cable:

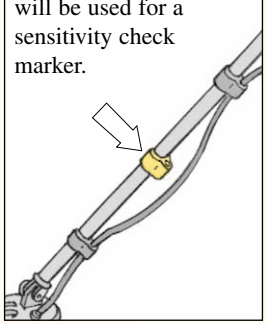
1. Attach the cable to a bottom cable clamp placed 2 inches above the wing nut that attaches the search head to the telescoping wand.



2. Attach the cable to a second cable clamp placed 2 inches from the top of the plastic pole.



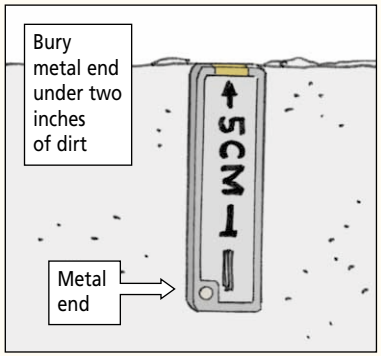
3. Attach a third cable clamp halfway between the two clamps. But don't attach the cable to this clamp. The clamp will be used for a sensitivity check marker.

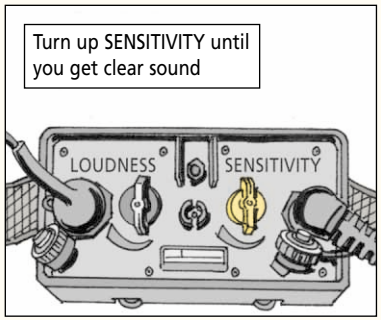


Set the sensitivity of your mine detector **before** you go in the minefield by using a sensitivity target. Use a disarmed mine that is the most difficult type to detect and that is the kind you will most likely encounter. Its metal content should be the same as an armed mine. If you don't have a disarmed mine, use the 5-cm test piece that comes with AN/PSS-12.

Bury the target in soil like you'll find in the mine field and where there is no metal clutter. Bury it at the deepest depth you expect to find a mine. If you're using the test piece, bury it vertically with the metal end down. If you're not sure what depth mines will be buried, bury the test piece so the inside metal piece is under 2 inches of dirt. This puts the top of the test piece flush with the surface.

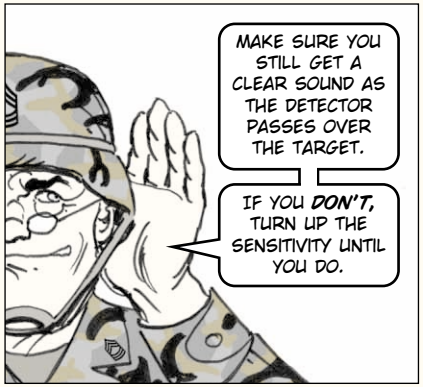
Place the detector head right over the target and then turn up the SENSITIVITY knob until you get a clear sound from the detector. A higher sensitivity setting gives more false alarms, but a lower setting may cause you to miss mines.





PS MORE

Float the detector head over the target, just grazing the ground, sweeping at a rate of about 1 foot per second.

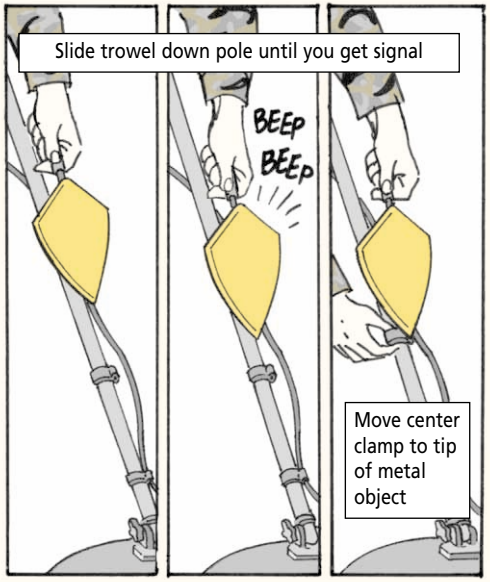


Keep It Close and Slow

The word used to be to keep the head 2 inches or less above the ground while sweeping. No more! Let the head graze the ground. And don't sweep 3 feet per second like you were taught—sweep 1 foot per second. Closer and slower sweeping dramatically increases your chances of finding a mine.

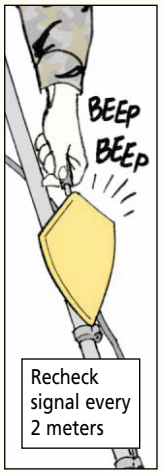
Keep It Sensitive

The detector's sensitivity varies over time as you're sweeping, so you need to keep checking it. As soon as you've made the initial sensitivity setting, put the head over ground where there is no metal to trigger a signal. Take a metal object like a trowel or bayonet and slide it down the wand until you get the same signal from the detector you heard with the head over the target. Move the center cable clamp that you placed on the wand to the tip of the trowel or bayonet. Compare the signal from the mine or test piece with the signal from the metal object touching the clamp.



The clamp is now your sensitivity mark. After every 2 meters of sweeping, touch the clamp with the metal object. If the signal has softened, turn up the sensitivity knob. If it's louder, turn down the sensitivity. Don't move the clamp.

If you have to frequently adjust the sensitivity, the batteries probably need to be replaced. Weak batteries can hurt your detector's performance long before the low battery light comes on.



Sweep no faster than 1 foot per second and overlap each sweep and the edge of the lane you're checking by at least one half the width of the detector head.

SOUM For Good Detecting

M9 ACE Tee Fitting

NSN 4730-00-466-7496 gets the tee fitting for the earthmover's fire extinguisher. The NSN shown as Item 23 in Fig 45 of TM 5-2350-262-24P is wrong.